

pledged to help on a national basis to assist in the effort to rebuild and repair all the churches that were damaged and destroyed here in Alabama as a result of this tornado.

Let me just close with a special commendation for all the State and local emergency management officials, the search and rescue teams, the volunteers who have labored so long; the Governor told me about some of the horrible human loss just within yards of where we're standing. I thank the people in our military uniforms. Many of them have been here for hours and hours and hours without relief. I know that many of these relief workers have been working more than 18 hours a day to clear debris, to cut trees, to lift telephone poles. I would like to compliment your power company for getting the power back on within 48 hours and allowing some measure of normalcy to return.

I would like to thank the Salvation Army for providing the free meals and all the people that contributed food from all over America. I would like to thank the people who have provided quilts or medicine or other physical support. I would also like to say—Bill and Gayle Reed said something to me I think I ought to say to all of you—they said, you know, a lot of times in the last few days the most important thing they got from their friends and neighbors was just a kind remark or a pat on the back or an expression of support. And for all of you who have done that, I thank you.

My experience has been, from being Governor of a State with a lot of tornadoes for 12 years and then being President during some of the most profound natural disasters of the 20th century, is that the most important thing for people in trouble is that they know their friends and neighbors and family members are supporting them and that they have some concrete thing to look forward to tomorrow. We have to give people a way to look forward to tomorrow—a project, work to do, something that can be done to make a difference.

I'm always struck by the strength and bravery, the generosity of the American people at a time like this. The families I have seen today have reaffirmed that and I thank them. Back behind us over here in McDonald

Chapel, the Open Door Church may lie in a rubble, but I understand that on Easter morning the congregation gathered on folding chairs and held a service in the parking lot. The Book of Isaiah has a verse that has particular meaning to me. I'll just leave it with you. "You were wearied with the length of your way, but you did not say it was hopeless. You found new life for your strength, and so you were not faint."

My friends, the road to recovery is long. Your grief and your pain are profound. It will take weeks, months, even years to rebuild all that has been destroyed. But the process of restoration has begun because the most important thing you have, your spirit, was not destroyed. And we look forward to working with you all the way.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the McDonald Chapel neighborhood of suburban Birmingham, Alabama, which was struck by a tornado on April 8. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Fob James, Jr., and his wife, Bobbie; State Senator Sundra Escott-Russell; State Representative John R. Hilliard; Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., of Birmingham; Sheriff Jim Woodward of Jefferson County; Pastor Homer Jordan of Chapel Hill Baptist Church and his wife, Shelva; mechanic Bill Reed and his wife, Gayle, whose mobile home was destroyed in the tornado; tornado survivors Morris and Bonnie Rembert and Phillip and Cindy Rutland; and Marcus Coleman, widower of Colet Coleman.

Proclamation 7082—National Recall Round-Up Day, 1998

April 15, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

More than 21,000 Americans lose their lives each year in accidents involving consumer products, and more than 29 million are injured. These accidents cost our Nation over \$200 billion annually, and the cost in terms of human suffering is immeasurable.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is on the front line of the Federal Government's efforts to protect the safety and well-being of our citizens, especially

our children. The CPSC monitors the performance of more than 15,000 types of consumer products and secures the recall of those that prove to be defective and potentially hazardous. Last year alone, the CPSC negotiated 362 recalls involving over 76 million individual consumer products that presented a significant risk to the public. But getting dangerous products off store shelves is only the first step. The real challenge is getting them out of the homes of people who have already purchased them.

On April 16, the CPSC, in conjunction with State and local governments and community organizations across the country, will conduct the second annual Recall Round-Up Day. This initiative is a public safety campaign to warn Americans that they may still be exposing themselves and their families to recalled products that could seriously injure or even kill them. Despite recalls and safety alerts issued by the CPSC, many of these hazardous products are still in consumers' homes or can be purchased at secondhand stores and garage sales.

This year's Recall Round-Up effort will spotlight the dangers associated with five types of previously recalled consumer products: playpens, bunk beds, halogen floor lamps, hand-held hair dryers, and lawn darts. The CPSC encourages government officials, health, safety, and consumer agencies, community organizations, and the media to alert the American people—particularly parents and child care providers—to the importance of repairing, returning, or destroying any of these products if they have been recalled. I encourage all Americans to make use of this vital information to protect the safety and health of their families and to avoid preventable tragedies.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 16, 1998, as National Recall Round-Up Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day by working with safety, health, and consumer agencies and other appropriate community organizations to organize and conduct local round-ups of dangerous and defective consumer products and to warn parents, child

care providers, and the general public about the hazards of using recalled consumer products.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 17.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation

April 15, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required under section 601(a) of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-242, 22 U.S.C. 3281(a)), I am transmitting a report on the activities of United States Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation. It covers activities between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1997.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16.

Remarks Prior to Bilateral Discussions With President Eduardo Frei of Chile in Santiago

April 16, 1998

President Frei. We're going to start this meeting, and I would like, first of all, to extend a very warm welcome to the President of the United States, to the Ministers and members of staff, and to the Ministers of my Cabinet and the advisers for Chile.

It is an honor, a pleasure, a source of pride to have you all here. We had a very pleasant